

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7782

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0596

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PINR NO

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING FOR ENERGY CONFERENCE:

ARNE LIE (NORWAY)

REF: STATE 13742

1. ARNE LIE, UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, IS IN EFFECT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OWN ECONOMIC ADVISER AND AS SUCH WIELDS AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON ALL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC POLICY. LIE HELD THE SAME POSITION IN BRATTELI'S PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND OBVIOUSLY HAS THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONFIDENCE. A RESPECTED PROFESSIONAL ECONOMIST, LIE IS QUIET AND SELF-EFFACING PUBLICLY, RARELY OR NEVER MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR EXPRESSIONS OF OPENION, AND IS LITTLE KNOWN IN LABOR PARTY CIRCULES, THOUGH HE IS A LONGTIME PARTY MEMBER. HE IS CHEERFUL, PERSONABLE, OPEN IN HIS RELATIONS WITH AMERICANS, AND SPEAKS ENGLISH FLUENTLY.

2. WE HAVE NO INSIGHTS INTO LIE'S PERSONAL ATTITUDES ON ENERGY MATTERS, BUT ASSUME HE SHARES PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI'S ATTITUDES AND HAD A HAND IN FORMING NORWEGIAN POLICY: SLOW, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DEVELOPMENT OF NORWAY'S OIL RESOURCES -- COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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GREATER CONTROL BY GOVERNMENTS OVER INTERNATIONAL OIL BUSINESS

AND OIL REVENUE INVESTMENT (OSLO 275),
AND SPECIAL CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS OF UNDERDEVELOPED
COUNTRIES, BOTH PRODUCING AND CONSUMING.

3. LIE, BORN IN 1927, IS ONE OF THREE CABINET UNDER SECRETARIES
TO THE
PRIME MINISTER (RATHER THAN TO ONE OF THE OTHER MINISTERS);
THE OTHER TWO ARE FORIPOLITICAL AND FOR PRESS AND INFORMA-
TION MATTERS. LIE WAS ALSO ONE OF BRATTELI'S THREE UNDER
SECRETARIES IN BRATTELI'S 1971-72 GOVERNMENT. HE WAS A
DIVISION CHIEF IN THE OECD SECRETARIAT IN PARIS 1968-71.
HE HAS BEEN CHIEF OF THE EXCHANGE DIVISION OF NORWAY'S
CENTRAL BANK (NORGES BANK) SINCE 1960, EXCEPT WHEN ON
LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED JOBS. LIE WAS AN
OFFICE DIRECTOR IN THE COMMERCE MINISTRY, 1959-60, A
MEMBER OF NORWAY'S PERMANENT DELEGATION TO THE OEEC,
1956-59; AND BEFORE THAT HE WORKED IN THE COMMERCE
MINISTRY WHILE AND AFTER OBTAINING HIS ECONOMIC DEGREE.
BYRNE

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